

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
WESTERN DIVISION**

LAURIE BARNETT, )  
Plaintiff, )  
vs. )  
VAN RU CREDIT CORPORATION, )  
Defendant. )  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
No. 3:10-cv-2559  
**JURY DEMAND ENDORSED HEREON**

## **COMPLAINT**

NOW COMES the Plaintiff, LAURIE BARNETT, by and through her attorneys, LUXENBURG & LEVIN, LLC, and for her Complaint against the Defendant, VAN RU CREDIT CORPORATION, Plaintiff alleges and states as follows:

## **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. This is an action for actual and statutory damages for violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (hereinafter the “FDCPA”), 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.*, and the Ohio Consumer Sales Practices Act (hereinafter the “OCSPA”), Ohio Rev. Code § 1345.01, *et seq.*

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2. Jurisdiction arises under the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* Venue lies properly in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331(b), as a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to the claim occurred within this District.

## **PARTIES**

3. Plaintiff is an individual who was at all relevant times residing in Toledo, Ohio.
4. Plaintiff is a “consumer” as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3), as she is a natural person allegedly obligated to pay a debt.

5. At all relevant times, Defendant acted as a “debt collector” within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), in that it held itself out to be a company collecting a consumer debt allegedly owed by Plaintiff.

6. On information and belief, Defendant is a corporation of the State of Illinois, which is licensed to do business in Ohio and which has its principal place of business in Des Plaines, Illinois.

### **COUNT I**

(Violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act)

7. On or about June 22, 2010, Defendant’s representatives and/or employees, including, but not limited to, individuals who represented themselves as Mr. Stephens and Jonathan Green, began contacting both Plaintiff and her employer by telephone, sometimes multiple times per day, in attempts to collect the aforementioned alleged debt.

8. On multiple occasions when Defendant’s representatives and/or employees contacted Plaintiff’s employer, they disclosed not only Defendant’s company name, but also that Plaintiff owed an alleged debt.

9. In its attempts to collect the aforementioned alleged debt, Defendant violated the FDCPA in one or more of the following ways:

- a. Identifying the name of Defendant’s company while communicating with a person other than Plaintiff without having been expressly requested to do so, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(1);
- b. Communicating with a person other than Plaintiff and stating to such person that Plaintiff owes an alleged debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(2);

- c. Communicating with a person other than Plaintiff more than once in connection with the collection of the alleged debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(3);
- d. Communicating with someone other than Plaintiff in connection with the collection of the alleged debt without a proper purpose, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b);
- e. Causing a telephone to ring or engaging Plaintiff in conversation repeatedly and continuously with the intent to annoy, abuse or harass, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5); and
- f. By acting in an otherwise deceptive, unfair and unconscionable manner and failing to comply with the FDCPA.

10. As a result of Defendant's violations as aforesaid, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer personal humiliation, embarrassment, mental anguish and emotional distress.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LAURIE BARNETT, respectfully prays for a judgment against Defendant as follows:

- a. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 for each violation of the FDCPA;
- b. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff; and
- c. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

**COUNT II**

(Violation of the Ohio Consumer Sales Practices Act)

11. Plaintiff hereby adopts, re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations set forth above as though fully rewritten here.

12. Defendant's actions in attempting to collect the alleged debt from Plaintiff as described above constitute a "consumer transaction" as defined in Ohio Rev. Code § 1345.01(A).

13. Defendant is a "supplier" as defined in Ohio Rev. Code § 1345.01(C), as Defendant is in the business of effecting or soliciting consumer transactions.

14. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined in Ohio Rev. Code § 1345.01(C), as he is a person who engaged in a consumer transaction with a supplier, the Defendant herein.

15. Defendant's actions and omissions described above constitute unfair, deceptive and unconscionable acts and practices, in violation of Ohio Rev. Code §§ 1345.02 and 1345.03, and the substantive rules promulgated under the OCSPA.

16. Defendant, through its agents and employees, knowingly committed the unfair, deceptive and unconscionable acts and practices described above.

17. As a result of Defendant's unfair, deceptive and unconscionable acts and practices, Plaintiff has suffered, and continues to suffer, various damages which include, but are not limited to the categories of damages described above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LAURIE BARNETT, respectfully prays for a judgment against Defendant as follows:

- a. Statutory damages of \$200.00 for each violation of the OCSPA;
- b. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff; and
- c. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

**JURY DEMAND**

Pursuant to Civil Rule 38, Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues in this action, except for any issues relating to the amount of attorneys' fees and litigation costs to be awarded should Plaintiff prevail on any of her claims in this action.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ David B. Levin  
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